Adherence to safety norms

2243. SHRI RAMACHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the complete disregard for safety norms by the Geological Survey of India (GSI) resulting in many scientists and technical assistants facing life threatening diseases from radio-active chemicals they handle;

(b) number of employees of CGD who died during last three years due to cancer and number of employees suffering from various skin diseases due to exposure to prolonged rediation; and

(c) fresh steps taken by Government to implement Atomic Energy Regulatory Board norms during handling of chemicals such as cesium, Gamma and Nutron by the employees of Central Geophysical Division for exploration of minerals?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI RAMESH BAIS): (a) The Geological Survey of India (GSI) scientists and technical assistants always follow safety norms while handling hazardous radioactive chemicals and equipments which generate radiation.

(b) No employee of GSI died or suffered from skin diseases due to exposure to such radiation during the last three years.

(c) GSI follows the Atomic Energy Regulatory Board (AERB) norms for handling of hazardous radiation materials. Representative of AERB who inspected the Central Geophysical Division of GSI in August, 2002 found that the radiation levels are well within the prescribed limit and detected no loose contamination. The officials of the Central Geophysical Division wear spectacles, aprons and radiation monitoring badges while handling chemicals and instruments emitting radiation as precautionary measures.

Projects for recycling urban waste to Andhra Pradesh

2244. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO: Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have any scheme to produce energy from the waste products of urban areas;